

Raymond-Coleman House
53 Orange Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-837

HABS
MASS
10-NANT
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

RAYMOND-COLEMAN HOUSE

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Location: 53 Orange Street (on the west side of Orange Street),
Nantucket, Massachusetts

Present Owner: Estate of Carolyn W. Glass (Mrs. Edgar Toll Glass)

Present Occupant: Glass family

Present Use: Seasonal residence

Brief Statement

of Significance: Example of a small lean-to house with side door and chimney, it is believed to be one of the oldest houses on Nantucket.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The first mention of the house at 53 Orange Street that has been found in the records of the Town of Nantucket, shows that it was bought in 1802 from Elisha Raymond, house-joiner, by Captain Laban Coleman. Coleman's daughter, Lydia B. Ray, inherited it and lived there until 1870 when she sold it to Charles S. Chadwick. From then on owners were:
1870 -- Charles S. Chadwick.
1875 -- Eliza H. Hussey.
1888 -- R. Gardner Chase.
1894 -- George O. Wales.
1896 -- Charles A. Lovell.
1902 -- Elizabeth A. Coffin.
1921 -- Louise L. Folger & Estate of.
1941 -- Everett U. Crosby.
1943 -- Leverett B. and Caroline D. Davis.
1947 -- Carolyn W. Glass.
1965 to date -- Estate of Carolyn W. Glass.
2. Date of erection: Knowlton Mixer in Old Houses of New England, states that the house was built in 1729, while Worth in Nantucket Lands and Land Owners believed it was built probably between 1740 and 1750. The date has not been substantiated in Town records.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: House is the lean-to type, two stories high in front and one story high at the rear. The timbers, partly oak and partly pine, much of the boarding, most of the bricks and perhaps the brick oven, are remaining

material from the first construction, at which time there was a small, steep stairway on the Orange Street side of the main chimney and one in the one-story rear part. This is a good example of a prevalent Nantucket design of a small house with a single livingroom in the two-story part, toward one end of which is the chimney hut well within the structure, and with a one-story and partial attic rear room, with cooking fireplace and bake-oven and a small sleeping-room beside the kitchen and warmed therefrom. (Abstract, Writings of Everett U. Crosby)

5. Alterations and additions: Years ago the house was "modernized" by building the wood paneling on the chimney side of the front room, at which time the size of the fireplaces was no doubt reduced. (Abstract, Old Houses of New England by Mixer)

About 1942, Everett U. Crosby, author of Ninety-Five Percent Perfect, remodeled the house. The door at right front, opening into a shallow entry, was closed up on the inside but left in place, and a fence was built across the front and side of the house. The stairway was removed and a small room opened up in the resulting space with a window added on the first floor north side. The door on the south side was made into the front door with the stairway opposite rising from the small bedroom now made into a sizable entrance hall. The front doorway trim was changed. The small ell is now a modern kitchen.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The house is thought to be one of the earliest in Nantucket, built in the few years around 1800 when the population of Nantucket was about 5,600 and nearly one-half attended Friends Meeting. They required utmost simplicity and utmost plainness in detail of their houses. (Abstract, Ninety-Five Percent Perfect by Crosby)

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographs before and after restoration in Ninety-Five Percent Perfect by Everett U. Crosby, Nantucket: Inquirer and Mirror Press, 1937; old photograph in Nantucket Lands and Land Owners by Henry Barnard Worth, Nantucket Historical Association Bulletin, Vol. 2, Bull. 1&7, 1904; photograph in Old Houses of New England by Knowlton Mixer, The Macmillan Co., 1927.

2. Bibliography:

Crosby, Everett U. Collection of Everett U. Crosby, owned by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Mixer, Knowlton. Old Houses of New England. The Macmillan Company, 1927.

Worth, Henry Barnard. Nantucket Lands and Land Owners.
Nantucket: Nantucket Historical Association Bulletin,
Vol. 2, Bull 1&7, 1904.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
February, 1965

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Cervin Robinson of Nantucket, Massachusetts. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.